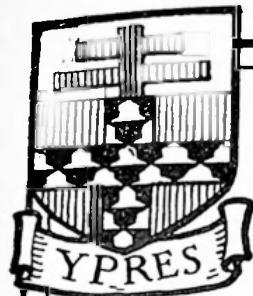


TOC H JOURNAL

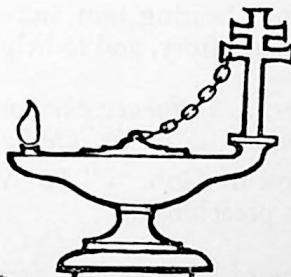


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VOLUME XIV.

NUMBER 8



The Four Points of the Compass—Revised

The Four Points of the Compass were first drafted in 1920, on a famous occasion described in detail in the JOURNAL, February, 1932, and have been several times revised in wording, but never in intention.

As time passes and Toc H life widens, things which we hardly dared to dream of at the start are seen to come fully within the circle of the Toc H compass. The Central Executive felt that in this Coming-of-Age year a further attempt ought to be made, not to change the meaning of the Four Points, but to state them if possible more clearly for all to read and to include the wider scope which experience has given them. They have called to their help a number of minds rich in Toc H experience of many kinds and have themselves finally approved this Coming-of-Age revision. They hope that it will help us all to an increasing use of the Compass by which a Toc H man is bound to steer. As revised, they read as follows:—

I. FELLOWSHIP. “To Love Widely.”

To found and maintain throughout the world Groups, Branches and Houses for the fostering of a true spirit of understanding between man and man.

The members thus brought together meet regularly as a family, sharing in the common ways of life and exhibiting by the diversity of their origin, occupation and outlook a spirit of reconciliation between men of all kinds.

Members are called upon—

To foster a wide human interest in the lives and needs of their fellows.

To welcome and to seek the well-being of those commended to their friendship.

To lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate men.

II. SERVICE. “To Build Bravely.”

To make of these Groups, Branches and Houses centres from which men of all conditions may serve their fellows.

Their task is not to compete with existing organisations but to supplement and reinforce them.

Members are called upon—

To give personal service.

To study local and international conditions and their effect on men's lives.

To challenge their generation to seek the will of Christ in the solution of all problems. As one means to this end, to make possible a Staff which shall serve the movement as a whole in its world-wide adventure for the Kingdom of God.

III. FAIRMINDEDNESS. “To Think Fairly.”

To bring the expert to the unit, hearing him and asking him questions; to listen hospitably and humbly to everyman's story, and to help the truth to prevail.

Members are called upon—

To find their own convictions, to influence the formation of public opinion, and thus to replace social and racial antagonisms by intelligent understanding.

IV. THE KINGDOM OF GOD. “To Witness Humbly.”

To spread the Gospel without preaching it.

Members are called upon—

To recognise the spiritual nature of Man and to demonstrate that a life of Fellowship, Service and Fairmindedness bears better witness than any spoken word.

IN FOR A PENNY

We prefaced the special Festival number of the JOURNAL last month with 'The Four Points of the Compass—Revised.' We reprint them again this month on the opposite page in order that this new version of the old words may become widely known and familiar. The following reflections on some phrases in the Four Points were set down before the writer knew of the revision, but they will serve not only to illustrate parts of the Points but to show how the language of them has in some places been made clearer.

*In for a penny, in for a pound:
It's love that makes the world go round.*

THE Lunch Club is the place for scraps (no, not that sort—the grub's all right)—let us say, for verbal scrapping. Jack says that if there were a war to-morrow most Toc H fellows would say "I suppose we must obey orders and make the best of a bad job."

Wallie, on the other hand, is a Dick Sheppard "Never-Never," and would decline fighting under every circumstance. A dividing line is here that might cut more deeply some day than it does to-day in friendly blarney over the cottage pie.

Greybeard suggests that it is possibly more important to find out what Toc H is already pledged to do, than to wrangle over alternatives in a ghastly dilemma, which—thank God—has not yet quite arisen again. He then goes on to quote the wise old Negro, in the days after the American Civil War, who said: "Yes, sah; there was good men on both sides, but because they couldn't think it out, they had to fight it out."

"But where do you want us to start; I suppose with the old Four Points?" butts in George. "I am afraid all these seafaring metaphors about a Compass leave me cold: it always seems to me as a landlubber that if the good ship is heading North by South and East by West it must be in a pretty dangerous whirlpool. Flannel bags and open minds and sailing in four directions at once—glorious!"

"And now, Greybeard, having had your gibe, perhaps you will show us where peace comes into the picture."

"Not in office hours, my boy. My bill, please, Mrs. Symes. You forgot to charge the coffee!"

* * * *

The scene changes to the Branch meeting.

The talk begins in horribly parsonic style: "If you will turn to the fifth page of your diary" (not a soul turns to his diary) "you will find this passage '*They (or WE) are pledged.*'" That is, we have already let ourselves in for a penny which may well prove to be a pound. Whether you are a 'Terrier' or a 'Never-never,' or even an Indian Colonel, you are all let in for the same pledge.

To-night we are looking at these pledges as they apply specially to world peace, although we shall soon see we cannot isolate peace from all the other relationships of life.

'Wide human interest'

Pledged to a wide human interest in the lives and needs of our fellows.

This means we shall not shirk the pain which is the price of being sensitive, nor take an ineffective shelter beneath a hard shell of assumed ruthlessness. "It was beastly," said a British airman to me in 1918 fresh from pursuing the Bulgars over the Costerino Pass. Why did this particular job, near the end of a long war, seem

so intolerable? Because the airmen flew low over the heads of the crowd and could *see* the soldiers, peasants and cattle whom they were machine-gunning vertically.

We are pledged to be sensitive to suffering, and this holds whether in war or peace. To meet actual refugees under war conditions bites deep into the imagination. Are Toc H men seeing at close quarters enough of the refugees of ruined industries? How many have actually gone to *live* for a space with men whose story has been told in the JOURNAL and elsewhere? These inhuman social conditions are dangers to peace.

'Study of local conditions'

Pledged to the study of local conditions.

With Amy Mollison hop-scotching over the continents, we must revise any limited meaning in "local." Besides Toc H has "local" contacts in so many countries, that we can pool a vast number of local contributions to the general knowledge. This is not the moment to supply you full details of lines of study. The Branch can afford to put in its library (for one shilling and sixpence) the *Peace Yearbook, 1936*, which covers as wide a variety of viewpoints and useful facts as Toc H can desire.

'The mind of Christ'

Pledged to challenge their generation to seek in all things the mind of Christ.

This is the crux, but we must beware of judging by labels. In Salonica it was possible in war-time to buy sealed bottles of whisky of well-known Scotch brands. On careful examination one might discover a perforation in the base of the bottle through which the original had been extracted and something worse and inferior had been introduced. The Christian label is stuck on bottles with very pagan contents, because somehow the label retains a lot of old sentiment.

The authorities in Germany appear to have been alarmed by the complete omission of the old Christian label from certain newly-brewed Faith Movements, thereby exciting suspicion. This word "challenge" implies the rebel note, and unless there are some rebel-pioneers in Toc H launching ahead of the general crowd there will be a gradual toning and taming down fatal to spiritual vitality.

I do not believe there is any escape from the dilemma of modern war without the coming of a completely revolutionary state of mind in some men and women. It is not possible to isolate peace. We should rather accept the consequences of Father Groser's dictum: "I refuse to believe that God's economic laws contradict God's moral laws." War is wrapt up in unchristian economies and unchristian money values. The Toc H man will recognise this whether he feels his immediate duty in war-time is to fight alongside of the rest, or whether he adventures into the newer realms of power called variously thought-force, non-violence, group-convictions, or more traditionally the sharing in common of the Spirit of Christ. The Toc H airman will pray for those whom he bombs, and forgive those who gas his own women and children. He will suffer spiritual wounds because he is prepared to pay that terrible price. If he cannot do this, the challenge is unanswered. The Toc H non-resister will accept without bitterness the scorn of many and lose friendships that he highly values and maybe life itself. "And all through life I see a Cross."

Prejudices

Pledged to mitigate by habit of mind and word and deed the evils of class-consciousness.

This means we shall re-group our loyalties, and in addition to the word "class"

we shall insert "colour and national" consciousness. Personal contacts made by ourselves individually may affect the course of history. An Indian undergraduate at Oxford gains through the friendliness of several fellow-students an inside knowledge of English home-life of the cleaner type. Years after a grey-haired politician comes to the Round Table Conference seeking an honourable agreement for the great religious community he represents in an Indian province. As he goes aboard the boat, he clasps hands and says: "I can never hate England, because of two or three homes in which I was welcomed in those pre-war years."

Toc H, especially in London and University centres, should and could make many more personal contacts that count.

Friendliness

Responsibility for friendliness.

I have already suggested personal contacts with men of other races, either by hospitality at home or by joining in work

camps (such as John Hoyland runs). Surely after all our new contacts with Toc H overseas, a new network of correspondence shall arise, with a definite aim of understanding real problems, not simply shouting "cheerio" across the Equator.

The use of drama and literature for spreading the friendly international spirit is an obvious line of agreed approach towards constructive peace, and Toc H has already much good material.

The support of the many political and religious movements making for international understanding is a definite challenge to many individuals in Toc H, and the movement will take added tone as it contains more pioneers and less colourless back-benchers. One of the consequences of this will be a series of healthy "electrical storms" of disagreement through which some day a higher level of united conviction will appear in a clear sky.

H. B.

HOW CAN WE 'REMEMBER THEM'?

Every member knows that the 'Ceremony of Light' and its symbols, the Lamp and Rushlight, originated in a desire to commemorate friends who fell in the Great War, and that their memory—alongside other men and women who have since passed on—is still thus perpetuated. Nowadays the value of the Ceremony to the younger generation who knew none of the war-time Elder Brethren personally, is quite naturally being questioned. Padre JOHN PALMER raised this issue in an article in the April JOURNAL and a correspondent followed it up in May (see also a letter on page 286 below). Another member now pursues the subject.

THE earnest seeker after truth is always possessed with the eternal "How"? It is good for Toc H that men should ask questions, of themselves no less than of others. The clarifying of notions by writing one's thoughts on a subject is a valuable, though much neglected, aid to intelligent thinking. There is a real danger that Toc H men will drift into a world of phantasy, projecting themselves out of the world of reality and action, into an idealistic sphere where

lofty thoughts serve as an escape from the grim war against misunderstanding and selfishness.

A correspondent in the May JOURNAL tries to clarify his ideas, and makes some bold statements which should prove of incalculable worth for discussion in District Teams. We thank him for his courage. The object of the present analysis is to throw out some loose ends of suggestions for members to lay hold of and use as a point of departure in discussion.

The correspondent says ". . . to remember implies previous personal knowledge or experience . . . and it is juggling with words to say that a man can, or should, remember others whom he has never known." If this premise is accepted, a moment's reflection will show that the whole basis of the Christian faith is brought into question. The Christian believes that it is possible to know his Master intimately. The focus of the Christian Church is the Communion Service—whether Mass, Eucharist, Communion, the Lord's Supper or the Breaking of Bread—and there is a belief buoyed up by feeling that at this Service in particular the Master is really present and known. The charge is a "perpetual memory." To some, the realisation of the presence comes easily, but to all in their better moments it comes as a benediction. The possibility is demonstrated in the lives of some whom we know; the difficulty to the ordinary man is none the less apparent. So much depends on training, experience, and willingness to learn. Thus, it is possible for a skilled analyst to determine the composition of a complex metallic alloy, where a second-year chemical student might be tempted to say it could not be done. His skill will come by practice and experience. The Christian feels that he really can know and remember Christ. Inspired by the memory and teaching of One whom some had never seen, a small band of men turned the world upside down. This teaching and inspiration is still available, only in our frailty we do not take the trouble to explore. If we admit the possibility of knowing Christ, at least in some measure, does it not follow that we can, to a lesser extent maybe, know and remember the Elder Brethren?

Granted that the Elder Brethren would smile at the thought that they would ever

be held up as patterns—they would be the first to admit that as an absurdity, the fact remains that they embody a principle. Now, blindly to hang on to the trail of tradition is a downright bad thing for the mind. To defend the Ceremony of Light, particularly the wording, against our better judgments would be simply stupid. But how many of us have ever really examined and thought about the Ceremony? In the JOURNAL of October, 1922, Tubby, writing of the (then) new Lamp, uses these significant words:—

" . . . after a pause for silent remembrance of our Elder Brethren, *and their unselfish tasks and ideals now bequeathed to us in every place*. . . ."

The Value of Biography

It is interesting here to notice the definiteness of the association—the men, their tasks, their ideals. "How can we remember them?" rightly asks our correspondent. Perhaps by being more definite. Toc H needs more definiteness—definite aims, definite plans. Newcomers must be taught, and the "old brigade" must realise its responsibilities, and clarify its knowledge by a refresher course. The responsibility for teaching is largely in the hands of the Padres and Pilots. We should grasp the immense value of Biography. History can be as dry as dust—the story of the Old House and origins of Toc H, as sometimes retailed, is lifeless. History *can* inspire, but to do this it must live, must be able to capture the imagination by having events grouped round personalities. Can anyone read the little booklet *The Gen.* without feeling that he really does know him? Some little biographies in the "Bangwent Series" teach us much of the Elder Brethren, as also do sections of the *Tales and Plain Tales from Flanders* and *Earthquake Love*. Occupying a very high place in

deed is Sir Charles Harington's *Plumer of Messines*. Read with understanding, this book reveals a Christian Warrior so clearly that one could feel that one has known him. Would that his guiding principles—Trust, Training, Thoroughness—were ours and those of all men everywhere!

Tasks and Ideals

Toc H in its Main Resolution "remembers with gratitude" how the Old House was used by and for men. We need some knowledge and guidance on the interpretation of this. It might help members to a fuller realisation of the meaning of the Ceremony of Light if one made the story of some Elder Brethren his own, and told it with conviction just before the Ceremony. So often our utterances lack conviction—how can we spread Toc H if we are not saturated with its lore? Perhaps, too, we have become discouraged by trying to remember the Elder Brethren in some abstract manner, rather than remembering their unselfish tasks and ideals as Tubby so splendidly puts it. The Act of Remembrance is the background; the challenge comes in the Act of Rededication "Let your Light so shine. . ." We need so much to have this forward vision. There seems to be an especial danger that we might flutter like moths around our Light, rather than letting the Light illuminate the objective. Fourteen years ago, a writer in the JOURNAL emphasised that the Lamp was the exposition of our aims, and the Jobmaster was the expression. The light should inspire the service. Does it? If not, it is difficult to see how a mere change in form or wording could alter matters. The Old House had no visible Lamp, had no Ceremony of Light. Yet, it seems that the Lamp crystallised ideas that had lain latent in the minds of the post-war builders.

Binyon's lines, written as a war poem, used by the British Legion also, have a wider application, for truth is the heritage of no particular age. Could we not sit down and analyse their meaning—growing old; age wearying; years condemning? Is Toc H capable of striving after perpetual youth so that the years will not condemn us? Or can our standardized forms lead to mere superficial humbug? Let us welcome honest enquiry, and act.

Leaders and Vision

This is all a matter of Leadership—a need for the arising of men of dynamic personality, who can show Toc H men how to realise themselves, how to become adventurers in life. Strive how we may we cannot divorce our origins from the War; the principles of fellowship and unselfish sacrifice of those days are our incentive and inspiration towards making an impact on everyday life. Unselfish Sacrifice—what does this really mean? In the answer to this we have one of the keys to the Act of Remembrance. Surely what it implies is the development of the whole personality of the individual, who takes a weaker brother by the hand and helps him develop his inherent qualities, so that both live a larger and richer life. It is something intensely individual and practical, where the vision and understanding are continually expanding.

If we can visualise the factors which led to the necessity for the Elder Brethren to make their sacrifice, we shall be greatly helped to an understanding of the necessity for Toc H in peace-time. Give us Vision, Leaders, Plans, Energy, and the rest will right itself.

*Have the elder races halted?
Do they droop and end their lesson,
wearied over there beyond the seas?
We take up the task eternal, and the
burden and the lesson,
Pioneers! O Pioneers!*

A. L. R.

THE TWELFTH STAFF CONFERENCE.

THE Annual Conference of the whole-time Toc H Staff came this year as a sort of footnote to the Coming-of-Age Festival. It actually followed straight on, and in the same place as, the last 'official' event of the Festival, the 'Digswell Park Week-end,' of which some impression was given in the Special Number of this JOURNAL last month (pages 97-100). Those members of the staff who had just gone through the fine experience of that week-end with so many of their fellow-members from home and overseas, probably found it a bit difficult to say good-bye to one Conference on Monday morning and greet the start of another one on Monday afternoon. And yet they soon recovered from any feeling of anti-climax, for indeed the two Conferences were quite different in scope as in personnel. The main aim of the Week-end had been to collect a selection of leaders from all over the world in order that they might get to know each other and discuss the problems of leadership together. The Staff Conference consists of men who mostly know each other already but have too few opportunities of meeting either 'socially' or for purposes of 'training.' It is an intimate and happy meeting, salted with a good deal of business. And, except to a small proportion of newcomers, the place and all its resources for work and play and worship was entirely familiar—for this was the fifth year in succession in which Digswell Park has been the *venue*. The staff met from Monday afternoon, July 20, to Saturday morning, July 25. Those present, in the order in which they appear in the photograph on the opposite page, were:—

FRONT ROW: R. Sawers (*Scotland—Experimental Area Secretary*); L. M. Williams (*South Australia Area Secretary-to-be*); J. W. Maddock (*East Midlands Area Secretary*); Barclay Baron (*Editorial Secretary*); R. D. Smith (*Western Area Secretary*); F. W. Joyce (*Assistant Editorial Secretary*); H. W. Mycroft (*Lakeland Area Secretary*); G. R. R. Martin (*Northern and Western London Areas Secretary*); K. G. Bloxham (*South Western Area Padre*); A. F. Watts (*Western London Area Padre*); H. Leggate (*Kent and Surrey & Sussex Areas Padre*); A. E. Howard (*Area Padre, Scotland*); J. G. Turvey (*North Western Area Secretary*).

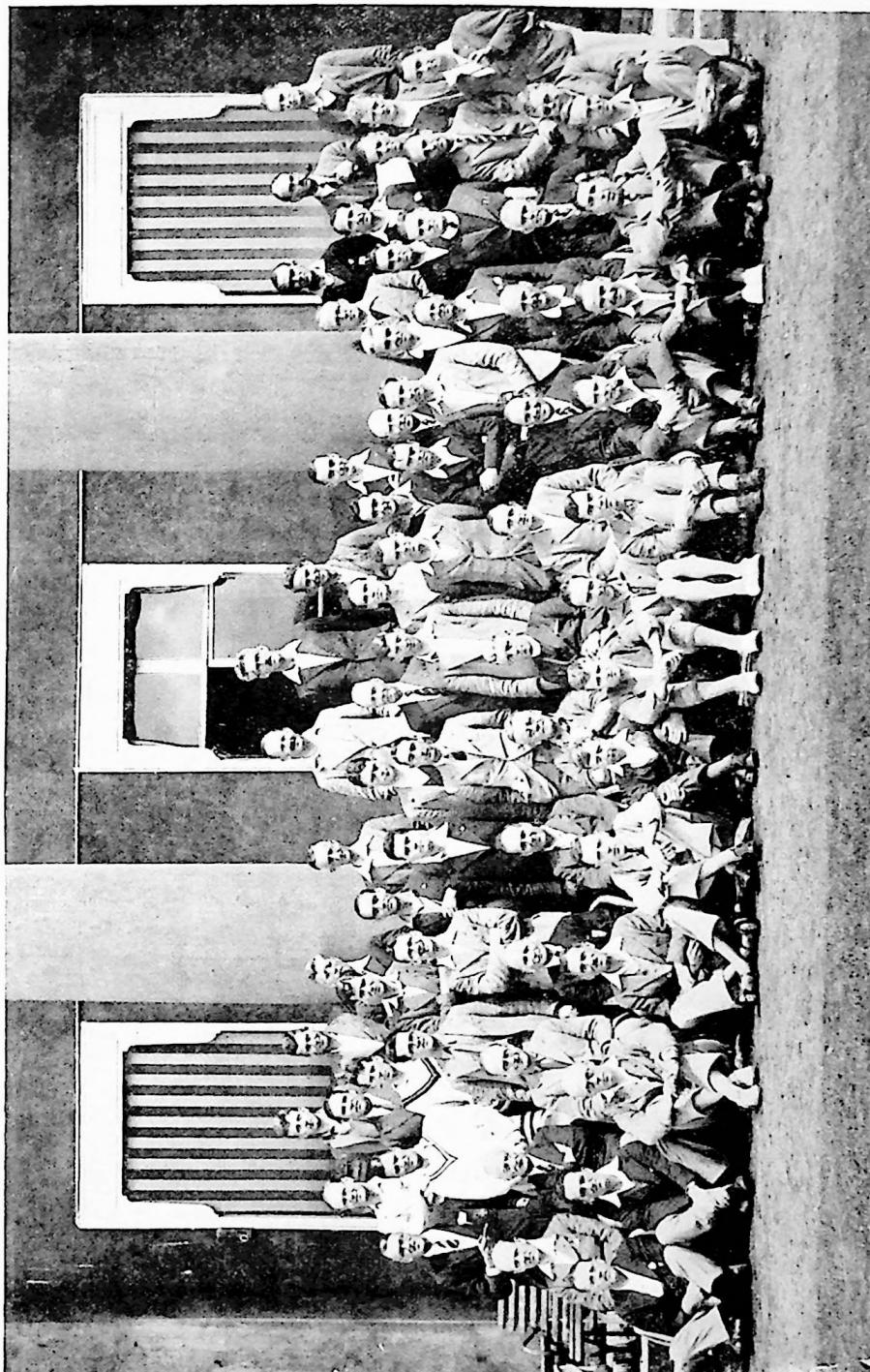
SECOND ROW: A. Johnston (*Manchester Area Secretary*); P. A. Slessor (*Local Units and Old House Secretary*); R. R. Calkin (*General Secretary*); O. S. Watkins (*Hon. Administrative Padre, now in S. Africa*); H. A. Secretan (*Hon. Administrator*); P. B. Clayton (*Founder Padre*); G. Barclay (*Hon. Association Padre, visiting speaker*); H. F. Sawbridge (*Western Area Padre*); G. Williams (*Southern London Area Padre*); P. H. Ketnor (*Southern Area Secretary*); H. Wynne Jones (*Headquarters*); D. J. Wallace (*Eastern London Area Padre*).

THIRD ROW: C. Marr (*Eastern Area Padre*); R. E. Wraith (*Eastern Area Secretary*); R. E. Simons (*Manchester Area Padre*); N. F. W. McPherson (*Eastern London Area Secretary*); L. W. Wood (*Surrey & Sussex Area Secretary*); R. S. Dabbs (*East Midlands Area Padre*); C. Stevenson (*West Midlands Area Secretary*); R. L. Watson (*Marks Padre, London*); G. H. T. Blake (*Notts & Derby Area Padre, now Manchester*); H. C. Dunnett (*Southern Area Secretary, now Argentine*); G. J. Chambers (*Southern Area Padre*); R. J. Davies (*East Yorks. Area Padre, now North Western*); R. S. Dye (*West Yorks. Area Padre*); H. Bursey (*East Yorks. Area Padre*).

FOURTH ROW: R. L. Wheatley (*Headquarters*); E. L. Samuel (*Bursar*); G. K. Tattersall (*Schools Secretary*); F. E. Ford (*Oxford & Thames Valley Area and Administrative Padre*); J. N. Jory (*Padre for Winnipeg*); R. M. Beck (*Tubby's A.D.C.*); H. Hodkisson (*Eastern Canada*); A. K. Bostock (*Northern Area Padre*); F. G. Harrison (*Notts & Derby Area Secretary*); W. A. Cave (*formerly South Australia Area Secretary*); A. S. Greenacre (*Western Area Secretary, now South Wales*); G. S. Johnson (*West Yorks. Area Secretary*); A. Gammon (*Marks Pilot, Leeds*); I. Fraser (*Scottish Central Area Secretary*).

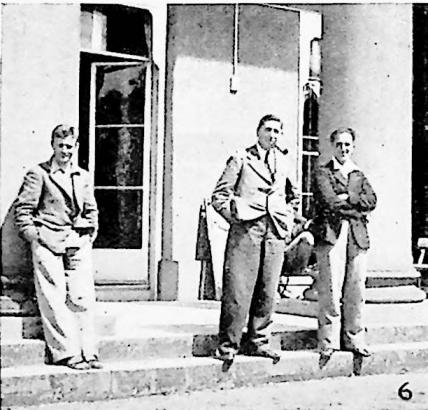
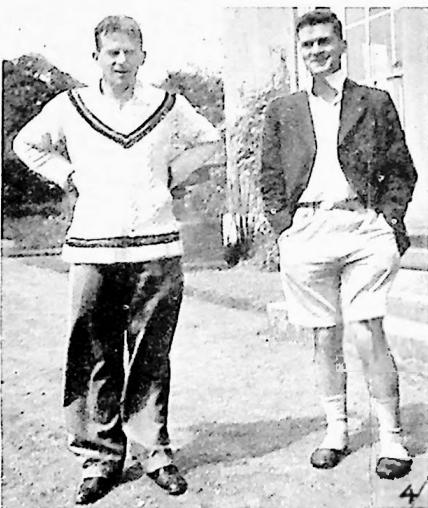
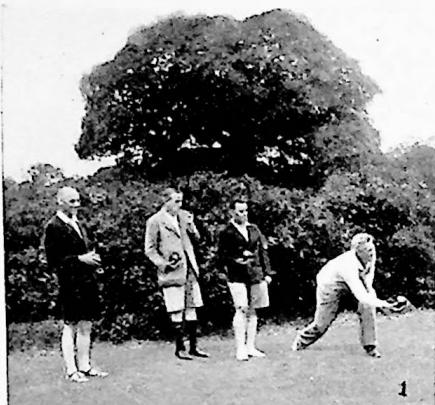
FIFTH ROW: A. E. F. Hammond (*Southern London Area Secretary, now Kent, Surrey & Sussex*); P. Tuckwell (*formerly University Hon. Pilot, Cambridge*); D. L. Ralph (*Oxford & Thames Valley Hon. Area Secretary*); J. H. M. Shaw (*Northern Ireland Area Secretary*); G. Foster (*North Wales & Border Counties Area Secretary*); J. R. Palmer (*West Midlands Area Padre*); F. B. Wellbourn (*Tubby's A.D.C.*); R. N. Craig (*Marks Padre, Birmingham*); J. E. E. Tunstall (*Northern London Area Padre*); R. H. Staton (*Marks Pilot, Swindon, now Derby*); C. G. Freeston (*Kent Area Secretary, now Southern London*); J. W. Fox (*South Western Hon. Area Secretary*); J. H. Clark (*Warden, Talbot House Club, Southampton*).

An abysmal summer, well designed to demonstrate English 'weather' to our Festival visitors from overseas, drove nearly all the Conference sessions indoors, instead of allowing the semi-circle to take its shirts off on the lawn as in previous years. A convention, whose origins are 'wropt in mystery,' put Barkis in the chair again.



MEMBERS OF THE TWELFTH STAFF CONFERENCE : DIGSWELL PARK, JULY 20-25, 1936.

For names see opposite page.
(Photo : F. Mayo, Wycliffe.)



1. A game of bowls—Percy Ketnor, "Sawbones," Geoffrey Johnston, John Palmer. 2. A foursome—Herbert Leggate, Harry Mycroft, Ian Fraser, Arthur Howard. 3. Problems—J. N. Jory and Owen Watkins, Percy Ketnor and Alan Bostock. 4. Dress (with apologies to the *Tailor and Cutter*)—G. K. Tattersall and Leslie Wood. 5. Work—"Barkis" and Paul Slessor trimming the golf course. 6. Ted Hammond, Arthur Howard and Len Williams.

The General Idea

Many months before, according to custom, the general idea of the Conference had been laid down and discussed by the staff at a meeting in April, when many of them are in London for the annual meeting of the Central Council. The memorandum issued by the Hon. Administrator at that time said :—

" We shall come to the Staff Conference this year fresh from the experience of the Festival. Doubtless it will appeal to each of us in ways special to our own individual temperament, outlook and needs. Nevertheless, in very general terms, we should each of us find there :

- (a) a summing-up of past experience and a sense of thanksgiving for the grace of God in the lives of Toc H men from the beginning until now;
- (b) an opening of our eyes to the vision of what Toc H may hope by the grace of God to accomplish towards the building of the Kingdom on earth in the difficult years ahead;
- (c) a rededication of ourselves individually, each for his own part in that task.

" If this expectation is realized, then we should come to the Staff Conference with minds attuned not merely to an emotional experience but to the steady working out of the practical steps required to realize the vision we have seen in terms of the actual life of the movement. As members of the staff it is our business to succeed in holding in the focus of our minds at one and the same time the whole wood and the individual trees that compose it. Our gaze must not be so rapt by the imagined skyline of the forest which is to be that we forget the daily tasks of trenching the soil, planting, thinning and topping of individual trees. Nor must we become so absorbed in the particular tasks of woodcraft which fall to each of us to perform that we forget the relation of our own plantation to the forest as a whole.

" It seems to me, therefore, that we should be wise at this year's Staff Conference to try to plan a programme that will help to keep these two aspects of our work in balance. What we need is that the seeming smallness of our day-to-day work shall be shot through and illuminated by the sense of the whole, so that we see in that work, not an exasperating interference with our grasp of the ideal, but the very means by which that ideal may progressively be realised in the life of Toc H.

" I suggest, therefore, that we have two main headings. The first I would call 'Toc H Within,' meaning thereby (to keep the metaphor) all that belongs to our craft as working woodsmen. For the second I suggest 'Toc H Without,' meaning in the same metaphor Toc H as it looks to the eye of the forest warden. Individually we have to fill both parts and we need to relate them."

This selection beforehand of a wide piece of country for thought and discussion has been the practice of the conference in the last few years, in contrast to earlier conferences which tended to get lost and irritated in a maze of small 'practical' details of the machinery and running of Toc H. In these days no desperate decisions are made, no resolutions passed, no 'commissions' allowed to work over-time on making reports which few people ever read and almost no one acts upon. For the main purpose of the Conference is that men differing greatly in their opinions and their gifts should "live together in love and joy and peace, disown discouragement and practice thanksgiving" for a few days in common, and thereby achieve a fresh sense of their unity in diversity as a whole-time team. For the better furthering of this object the Conference now normally works (*i.e.*, holds united sessions and group discussions) all the morning, plays all the afternoon and works again in the evening.

Devotional Sessions

For some years it has been the custom of the Conference to open its day's programme with an hour given to the study of the Bible or of some book concerned with it. Usually one of our own padres has opened this session with a short introductory talk and then the conference has split up into separate groups to discuss it. Such a method has proved only moderately satisfactory, and this year a new plan was tried, with much better results. On each of the four mornings, at 11.30, a speaker from outside delivered himself as he wished, and then, without public discussion, led the members of the Conference round, before lunch, to the little church at the back of the house and there conducted short devotions in the form he himself chose. The four invited speakers were all men of distinction in their own spheres, with something worth saying which they said well. On Tuesday morning, Canon B. K. Cunningham, Principal of Westcott House, Cambridge—the beloved "Professor" of generations of theological students in the Anglican Church, talked very wisely and with a charming sense of humour

of the personal religious life of the man called to serve on the staff of Toc H. On Wednesday, Z. F. Willis, from National Headquarters, Y.M.C.A., spoke on the relation of a Christian body like Toc H to the modern world with all its difficult problems and dangerous obsessions. His vigorous talk took an extraordinarily wide sweep and was full of references to recent books and political events. On Thursday, Capt. Lionel Ellis, Secretary, since its foundation, of the National Council of Social Service, spoke with extreme directness and simplicity of personal religion. Members of the Conference were deeply impressed by the intimate way in which a busy layman shared his own spiritual experience with them. And on Friday, Padre George Barclay, of Cambridge, a Presbyterian, dealt with the religious life which Toc H is called to practise.

The Sessions

'The Main Theme,' as it has come to be called, was divided into two main parts, respectively 'Toc H Without' and 'Toc H Within,' and each of these was accorded two sessions. The method of tackling the subject was that used in the last few years, namely, talks by a team of two, who had been given their 'terms of reference' months beforehand and came prepared, followed, later in the day or next morning, by discussions by groups into which the Conference was divided of a set of questions on the subject set by the two speakers themselves. This ensures that the subject is presented from two points of view, that the audience has time to think about it before being called upon to discuss it, and that when discussion takes place there is opportunity for every member, even the shyest and slowest, to make his contribution. There was no attempt this year to draw up any 'findings' by the discussion groups, for an hour's ranging round a set of questions rarely produces any conclusion which can usefully be recorded. What it does do, at its best, is to sharpen men's wits and start trains of thought which they can pursue later for themselves. The Conference was divided into four groups, according to

their names in alphabetical order, and these were led by Herbert Leggate, David Wallace, John Maddock and Geoffrey Martin.

'Toc H Without: Leaven'

On the first evening this section of the subject was introduced by Gordon Turvey (North Western Area Secretary) and Ronald Wraith (Eastern Area Secretary). Instead of attempting to summarize their talks, which approached the subject from very different angles, it may be better worth while to quote from the memorandum, issued to all members of the Conference beforehand, which was their 'terms of reference.' This might well suggest discussions in units or at other conferences of Toc H. The memorandum says: —

"*Leaven*: Toc H is now big enough and should be strong enough to begin to have an influence beyond itself. There is evidence that in places, especially small communities, it is proving that it has. In big towns, for natural reasons, the process is less evident. This is a difficult question, for Toc H is barred by its nature from seeking to establish its influence by the ordinary methods of superficial publicity. Nor can it produce clear-cut policies with an attraction equal to their repulsion.

"As we attain the age of responsibility we need to pay increasing attention to the nature of the impact of our movement on the life of the communities in which it lies at present somewhat concealed. From now on we shall have an increasing number of men who have 'graduated' in Toc H. They ought to be carrying the spirit and influence of Toc H in wider fields, not merely, though perhaps primarily, in the work of public voluntary bodies concerned with social service (e.g., Councils of Social Service, Juvenile Employment Committees, Borstal Committees, Hospital Boards) but in local government and by degrees in national political life, and in the representative organs of government of the various Churches.

"Another less defined but equally important sphere for the operation of Toc H ideas is to be found in those movements which are trying to develop the increasing opportunities for leisure in ways which will stimulate individual character, taste and creativeness, and combat the deadening influence of conformity to the mass.

"What we have to consider are, first, the lessons to be drawn from the so-far exiguous experience of Toc H along these lines, and, secondly, the ways in which we can prepare men's minds during their active period of training within Toc H for this further adventure. Probably we have to deal here with a minority, possibly a small minority, of Toc H members, but even so the stimulation of a vision of fields yet waiting to be conquered by the Toc H way

of life should be valuable in keeping the internal life of Toc H fresh and forward-looking. . . .

'Toc H Within: Recruitment'

Questions on the first session were discussed by groups on Tuesday morning. That evening the second section of the subject—'Recruitment'—was introduced by Geoffrey Johnson (West Yorkshire Area Secretary) and Leslie Wood (Kent Area Secretary) in a pair of lively speeches. Here the memorandum had suggested the following:—

"*Recruitment*: Is the range of entry into Toc H widening, narrowing or just 'the mixture as before'?

"Do we differentiate enough, or at all, in the way of approach we open out for different individuals or different types?

"Is our recruitment rather of a 'sink or swim' variety? Do we expect a sometimes rather crude expression of fellowship to hold the shy but thoughtful idealist, or pedestrianism in jobs to capture the high-speed adventurous soul?

"In short, are we really making our 'Club' wide-ranged enough to appeal to 'everyman'?

"As a small, though perhaps important, example have our so-called Guest-nights in practice become indistinguishable from Family Nighlits?

"We don't want just an analysis of our shortcomings. If they exist we want to think also of the part that can be played in overcoming them by unit leaders, by adapting the expression of Toc H to the needs of public and secondary schoolboys, university students, servicemen of all ranks, etc., by District officers, by Area leaders of seniority and position, by members of the staff."

'Toc H Within: Rhythm'

Again, the groups discussed next morning (Wednesday), and that night another section of the subject was excellently introduced by Angus Johnston (Manchester Area Secretary) and Colin Stevenson (West Midlands Area Secretary). Its rather mysterious title is thus explained in the memorandum:—

"*Rhythm*: There is a good deal of evidence that the life of units advances and retires rather like the waves of the sea: if so, why does this happen? Is there any reason why there should be this ebb and flow instead of a steady progress?

"Why do units get stale? Is it lack of fresh blood, or the natural tendency of men to settle down to a routine, or insufficient opportunity for fresh ideas to express themselves in leadership?

"Again, we do not want just a statement of defects but an attempt to see what positive results can be looked for from training of

leaders or potential leaders, from stimulating width of vision and constructive imagination by conscious effort on the part of District leaders, from the lifting of jobs from worthy routine services to adventurous seeking of friendship in new human contacts. And here again, what is the part of the staff?"

'Toc H Within: Roots'

On the next day (Thursday) Tubby talked at a morning session on a wide variety of matters. Then followed group discussion of the previous day's subject in the morning and talks on a new section of it in the evening. This time the talkers were George Blake (Manchester Area Padre) and J. E. E. Tunstall (Northern London Area Padre), and their field, according to the memorandum, was as follows:—

"*Roots*: We needn't spend time tilting at surface Toc H. But what we need to face is how we can drive our roots deep without becoming narrow.

"There are units of Toc H which consist exclusively of men who would be more at home in a Church Guild, and others almost comparable to an Elders meeting. Where Toc H goes no wider than this it fails to spread the Gospel to just those virile, untamed souls who would be Christ's finest soldiers, but are to be won not by preaching but by life. Positiveness is specially wanted here. How can we keep the springs of Toc H life sweet and yet prevent them being canalized?

"Surely, the unit padre's part is desperately important here, and how he is to be helped to play his part is a matter on which the staff, especially the staff padres, should have definite ideas."

The last paragraph explains why this session was planned as a 'padres' innings.'

'Toc H Without: Charter and Compass'

On Friday groups discussed Thursday's subject, and in the evening the whole Conference heard 'Bobs' Ford (Oxford and Thames Valley Area Padre) talk on 'The First Charter Object and the Fourth Point of the Compass.' These, as members should not need reminding, are:—

Charter (1): 'To preserve amongst men and to transmit to future generations the traditions of fellowship and service manifested by all ranks during the Great War, thereby encouraging its members, through the common Christian life of the Association, to seek God, and helping them to find His Will and to do it.'

Compass (4): 'The Kingdom of God—To spread the Gospel without preaching it.'

And the memorandum thus outlined the ground to be covered by this session :—

"The First Object and the Fourth Point of the Compass: . . . We have reached the point where we ought to consider with fresh eyes what we mean by those two statements in combination in this our 21st year.

"There are two reasons for this. The first is that, unless we are conscious that our discussions on the previous subjects lead up to this one, there is danger that we might sidetrack into a purely humanitarian or positivist view of our job in this generation. The other reason, which goes deeper, is this. The first object, strictly interpreted, does not go beyond the life of the Association itself. Toc H is envisaged as a Christianizing force *within its own membership*. Obviously, we had to start there or not at all. But the contemporary Fourth Point goes further, and, vaguely perhaps as yet, envisages an effort to spread the Kingdom. That implies a Christianizing influence spreading from Toc H outwards.

"The time has come when we must seriously consider how far that is being achieved and even how far we consciously set out to achieve it. The Christianizing *within* comes first in order of time, and without it no Christianizing *without* can hope to be effective. The first is far from complete. Will it ever be until it is deepened by the responsibility of a conscious effort towards the second?"

THE ELDER

F. S. Gurr: West Kent Countryman's

After several years of ill health resulting from active service in the Great War FRANK GURR died on February 28, at the age of 48. The Branch has suffered the loss of a loyal and friendly countryman who was one of the earliest members of the Branch and the pivotal man around whom the Offham wing grew up.

E. Tomkinson: Prestatyn Group

We are sorry to hear of the death of E. TOMKINSON who was recently made a member of the Group.

A. A. Brooks: Portsmouth Branch

Portsmouth Branch records the death of one of their keenest members at the early age of 30—AUBREY ALEXANDER BROOKS. He was Secretary to the unit for a long time, and much of its health and strength is due to his enthusiasm and energy. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A good Conference

Thus much for the work of the 1936 Staff Conference. There is no need to say much about its play, to which the afternoons and sometimes very late hours at night were given up. Tennis courts and the miniature golf course at the door claimed many 'fans'; the covered 'stikke' court where a man may get very sticky, even at midnight if he wishes, had its enthusiasts: and at the annual cricket match—'Padres v. Laymen'—not even a torrential rainstorm availed to save the laymen from defeat. On one afternoon many members went over to Hatfield to see Pat Leonard and Mrs. Pat and to meet Jack and Jill, their heavenly twins, in the vicarage garden: Pat took the party over Hatfield House and its glorious garden. The whole four days were full of variety and stimulus, not too strenuous for a staff which was recovering from the work of the Festival, but certainly not idle nor a waste of time. Good fellowship prevailed delightfully and men made new discoveries of each other.

B. B.

BRETHREN

L. B. Witchard: Golders Green Branch

LEONARD WITCHARD, who was connected with the Branch in its early days, died, after many years of ill health at the early age of 28. The Branch will miss his valuable and enthusiastic work.

Charles A. Blake: Upminster Group

By the death of CHARLES BLAKE, Upminster has lost one of its earliest members. He was also an active worker in the parish and worker on many committees.

T. Darke and A. Dance: Maidenhead Group

By the sudden death, on June 13, of TOMMY DARKE, aged 68 years, and the death, on August 9, after an operation, of ALBERT DANCE, aged 63 years, Maidenhead have lost two of their pioneer members. TOMMY, in spite of his years, was young in spirit and actively lived Toc H and for Toc H, the friend of all. ALBERT did much for the

Group in its infancy, and, though in failing health latterly, continued to do well small essential services. By coincidence they were buried in graves alongside each other: both are greatly missed.

William Onion: Stifford Branch

'SAILOR' ONION, who died on July 1, was a very popular and willing member of the Stifford Branch and will long be remembered by all who knew him.

Harry Joyce: Slough Branch

HARRY JOYCE was initiated in September, 1935, and died in Windsor Hospital on July 6. During his short membership he was known for his regular attendance and the thoroughness of his work, which set an example which his Branch is proud to remember.

H. Oliver: Darlington Branch

HAROLD OLIVER joined Darlington Branch still almost a schoolboy and later, while studying for Holy Orders, was attached to Durham. He faced two years of illness with amazing courage, and passed over, still a loyal member on July 17 at the age of 24.

A. Briscoe: Gosport Group

ALFRED BRISCOE passed over on July 22, after severe illness. He was an ex-Naval man and in Toc H had held the offices of Secretary of Preston Hall Group and Jobmaster and Treasurer at Gosport. He was a splendid worker who is greatly missed.

T. Pearson: Glasgow Branch

PEARSON died suddenly, after an operation for appendicitis, on August 8. He was one of the most popular men in the Branch, always cheerful and a particularly hard worker for children's treats. He served as Branch Treasurer for two years.

E. M. Adams: R.A.F.

TUBBY sends the following note on Leading Aircraftsman Edward Maxwell Adams, R.A.F., who was killed in an air disaster at Mersa Matruh on July 7.

THE C.P.O. and I had met before. We had been shipmates in a minesweeper, which on a stormy night—the worst last winter in the Eastern Mediterranean—had

W. H. Southernwood: Felixstowe Branch

SOUTHERNWOOD met his death, at the age of 26, in a motor-cycling accident. He had only been a member for six months, but his Branch had come to know his value and regret his loss greatly.

Harry Green: Muswell Hill Branch

Muswell Hill has suffered the loss of one of its founders and most loyal members, HARRY GREEN, who passed over on August 11, in hospital, after an operation. A blinded ex-service (St. Dunstan's) man, he was a very keen member of Toc H and of the British Legion and will be sadly missed by all.

T. Bonney: Maidstone Branch

The Branch is the poorer by the loss of TOM BONNEY, a Foundation Member, who always gave loyal and steady service to Toc H in Kent.

Vincent Corbett: Belle Vue Group

'VINCE', who passed over on August 25, was a member of Shrewsbury Branch since 1931 and a pioneer of Belle Vue (Shrewsbury) Group. Treasurer of the Branch and Secretary and District representative of the Group, he was also a keen ally of the Jobmaster and displayed a charm and an indomitable spirit which remains an inspiration.

A. W. Farmer: Toc H Drama League

By the death, after very short illness, of ALFRED FARMER, the Drama League is deprived of one of its leading actors. His last rôle was that of the *Outlaw* in the Coming-of-Age masque at the Crystal Palace. He was not only an admirable and versatile character actor but a most willing worker and a charming man.

been ordered with three sister ships to Famagusta in Cyprus. Minesweepers are like flat-irons in construction, and when the road is rough they take it badly. In the morning,

before we sailed, a tiny vessel, old-fashioned and for fishing patrol, started before us for the same objective. She caught the full force of the storm that night, and finally was towed in by the *Sussex*, after a destroyer, which had been sent out to her aid, itself was almost overwhelmed by the unexpected fury of the weather.

When our four minesweepers at last reached Famagusta, we found the place vacated by our predecessors, two minesweepers of the same class, except that they had left ashore in hospital a coxswain who had suddenly been seized with a grave illness needing an immediate operation. We heard of this from the small hospital presided over by an English Matron, who asked us to come up at once on landing. So this same C.P.O. and I foregathered at the sad bedside of the dying man, across which Roman Catholic and Anglican became close friends, and the friendship has endured.

Then, six months later, at the port of Chatham, when Navy Week was just then opening, the C.P.O. and I again foregathered and went out to a little house in Gillingham. It looked like any other little house, an entirely trim, unpretentious home. We rang the bell. The mother came in answer; she fetched the father, and we all went in. In the front room, after our explanation, the conversation needed no redress. We had arrived as strangers with a letter from an Air Marshal of the R.A.F.: it was his wish that special consolation should be bestowed upon this little home, from which a son had gone into Eternity while doing his duty in the Middle East.*

Then we were shown the photograph of E. M. Adams, which recalled to my mind a figure half-forgotten in Amman in 1934—over six foot of straight upstanding manhood,

* A Cairo member writes that at the memorial service there for Adams "we invited a senior and junior member respectively to read the first and second lessons. The senior was Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke Popham. Later I said to Charles Saxby, who had actually asked Sir Robert, "It was good of the Air Chief Marshal to fly back here on Sunday for the service." And Charles said, "Yes, I thanked him, but I also made it clear that Lofty was worth it."

a character to match. This was the man. His mother then produced a little packet of letters which had come to bring them comfort. The first of these was from Middle East Headquarters, and would have seemed official in its tone, were it not for some words in ink appended by C.-in-C. himself, a man on whom the burden of immense responsibility falls almost like a benediction, so that he finds the time for everything. The second letter was from David Hoare, as Padre of Toc H at Cairo. David Hoare will not mind my mentioning that his pen was as that of Barnabas, and I have seldom met a nobler letter. The third letter which had reached the mourning parents was from Commander Saxby, who had been the Jobmaster concerned. He wrote of Adams with no little feeling, describing both his work and good example.

The C.P.O. and I then rose to leave, having done what we could, and having gained an unforgettable experience of one more English home, patient and faithful and wholly uncomplaining beneath the weight and shadow of this loss. We prayed together and then left the room; our host and hostess quiet and content that their tall son had won in his short day honour and love.

How marvellous it is that this fraternity we call Toc H can on occasions rise to its full worth and bring three loving letters and two strangers to help a home thus terribly bereaved! Toc H does not abound in eloquence; nor do its plans or failures so much matter when illustrations of its influence shine out in ways which cannot be ignored. Adams came home that night, a son's true spirit, invisible to our human sight, but tranquil and clear-eyed, with no anxiety except that those who loved him should not mourn.

P. B. C.

THE LIST OF THE
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" V.—The Firs, Bassett, Southampton.
" VI.—6, Wake Green Rd., Birmingham, 13.
" VII.—15, Fitzroy Square, W.1.
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The Areas of Toc H

The Half-Yearly List, showing DISTRICTS, BRANCHES AND GROUPS, is published with the April (Annual Report) and November Journals.

Communications for DISTRICT, BRANCH AND GROUP SECRETARIES should be addressed c/o THE AREA SECRETARY concerned.

Where omitted in the following pages, the address of the AREA PADRE is the same as that of the Area Secretary.

Certain changes in Area Staff to be made during September are shown here as on completion.

H.A.C. = Hon. Area Commissioner.

A.S. = Area Secretary.

H.A.S. = Hon. Area Secretary.

A.P. = Area Padre.

Areas in the British Isles

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EASTERN LONDON AREA : *A.S.* : N. F. W. McPherson, 47, Francis Street, S.W.1. *A.P.* : Rev. D. J. Wallace, 13, Chelmsford Road, Leytonstone, E.11.

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NORTH WALES AND BORDER COUNTIES AREA : *A.S.* : G. Foster, The Oak House, Crowle, Worcester.

MANCHESTER AREA : *A.S.* : A. Johnston, Toc H, Atlantic Chambers, 7, Brazenose Street, Manchester, 2. *A.P.s.* : Rev. R. E. Simons, Toc H Mark IV, Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Manchester, 14; Rev. G. H. T. Blake, Toc H Mark XIV, 1, Eccles Old Road, Salford, 6.

NORTH WESTERN AREA : *A.S.* : J. G. Turvey, Gladstone House, 62, Rodney Street, Liverpool, 1. *A.P.* : Rev. R. J. Davies, Anahilt, Irby Road, Heswall, Cheshire.

LAKELAND AREA : *A.S.* : H. W. Mycroft, Grosvenor House, Stramongate, Kendal. *A.P.* : Rev. R. J. Davies, Anahilt, Irby Road, Heswall, Cheshire.

WEST YORKSHIRE AREA : *A.S.* : G. S. Johnson, Brotherton House, North Grange Road, Leeds, 6. *A.P.* : Rev. R. S. Dye.

EAST YORKSHIRE AREA : *A.P.* : Rev. H. Bursey, Clarendon House, Clarendon Street, Hull.

NORTHERN AREA : *A.S.* : J. W. Burford, Toc H Mark XVIII, Grainger Park Rd., Newcastle-on-Tyne, 4. *A.P.* : Rev. A. K. Bostock.

SOUTHERN AREA : *A.S.* : P. H. Ketnor, Toc H Mark V, The Firs, Bassett, Southampton. *A.P.* : Rev. G. J. Chambers.

OXFORD AND THAMES VALLEY AREA : *H.A.S.* : D. L. Ralph, 47, Francis Street, S.W.1. *A.P.* : Rev. F. E. Ford, 7, St. John's Road, Oxford.

SOUTH WESTERN AREA : *H.A.S.* : J. W. Fox, Toc H, 42, St. David's Hill, Exeter. *A.P.* : Rev. K. G. Bloxham.

WESTERN AREA : *A.S.* : R. D. Smith, Toc H, 29, St. Paul's Road, Clifton, Bristol, 8. *A.P.* : Rev. H. F. Sawbridge, M.C., Heathercliff, Goodeve Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, 9.

SOUTH WALES AREA : *A.S.* : A. S. Greenacre, Toc H, Insurance Buildings, New Street, Cardiff.

SCOTLAND—CENTRAL AREA : *A.S.* : I. Fraser, Toc H, 58, West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2. *A.P.* : Rev. A. E. Howard.

SCOTLAND—EXPERIMENTAL AREA : *A.S.* : R. Sawers, M.C., Toc H, 58, West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2. *A.P.* : Rev. A. E. Howard. *Hon. Area Pilot (Northern Division)* : C. A. Macpherson, 4, Elliot Road, Invergordon.

IRELAND—NORTHERN AREA : *A.S.* : J. H. M. Shaw, Toc H, 50, Dublin Road, Belfast.

Areas Overseas

CANADA—EASTERN CANADA REGION : *Regional Secretary*: J. M. N. Jackson, Toc H Mark II (C.), 614, Huron Street, Toronto, 5. *Regional Padre*: Rev. A. T. F. Holmes.

CANADA—WESTERN : *Padre and Commissioner*: Rev. M. E. Coleman, Toc H Mark I (C.), 178, Colony Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba. *Padre in Winnipeg*: Rev. J. N. Jory.

ARGENTINE : *Hon. Registrar*: W. J. Lake Lake, 430, Bine. Mitre, Buenos Aires. *Secretary*: H. C. Dunnnett, Mark I (S. Am.), Chacabuco 723, Buenos Aires.

INDIA AND BURMA : *Headquarters*: Toc H Mark I (I.), 2/2, Lansdowne Road, Calcutta. *Hon. Secretary*: J. F. Ormiston, 101/1, Clive Street, Calcutta. *Padre*: Canon C. G. Pearson, The Parsonage, Darjeeling.

AUSTRALIA : *Headquarters*: Box 423D, G.P.O., Adelaide, South Australia. *Hon. Australian Commissioner*: R. K. Wood. *Secretary to Australian Executive*: A. M. Cowling.

NEW SOUTH WALES AREA : *H.A.C.*: Prof. H. Tasman Lovell. *A.S.*: B. A. Billings, Toc H, 5, Hamilton Street, Sydney.

QUEENSLAND AREA : *H.A.C.*: J. C. Arkell, Llanelwy, Montague Road, Indooroopilly, Brisbane. *H.A.S.*: J. G. Loney, Dept. of Public Works, Treasury Buildings, Brisbane.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AREA : *H.A.C.*: Hon. E. W. Holden, M.L.C., 175, North Terrace, Adelaide. *H.A.S.*: A. G. Munt, Box 1202 K, G.P.O., Adelaide. *A.P.*: Rev. G. W. A. Kircher.

TASMANIA AREA : *H.A.C.*: G. Record, 90, Cameron Street, Launceston. *H.A.S.*: J. R. Rex, 144, Collins Street, Hobart.

VICTORIA AREA : *H.A.C.*: E. F. Herring, K.C. *H.A.S.*: A. L. Morrison, Toc H, 476, Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I. *A.P.*: Rev. P. W. Baldwin.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA AREA : *H.A.C.*: F. J. Huelin, c/o Dept. of Public Health, Murray Street, Perth. *H.A.S.*: G. A. Hills, Box E 202, G.P.O., Perth. *A.P.*: Rev. P. Sands.

NEW ZEALAND : *Hon. Dominion Secretary*: A. S. Kempthorne, 87, The Terrace, Wellington, C.I. *Hon. Dominion Padre*: Rev. O. W. Williams, M.C., Christ's College, Christchurch. *H.Q. Staff lent to New Zealand*: A. G. Churcher, c/o 87, The Terrace, Wellington, C.I.

SOUTHERN AFRICA : *Hon. H.Q. Commissioner*: Sir Herbert Stanley, G.C.M.G., Government House, Salisbury. *Secretary, Southern African Council*: R. M. L. Westropp, P.O. Box 3624, Johannesburg. *Hon. Padre*: Rev. O. S. Watkins, C.M.G.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE : *Pilot*: R. P. T. Anderson, Toc H, 40, Strand St., Cape Town. EASTERN PROVINCE : *H.A.S.*: K. Russell, Barclays Bank, Cradock. WESTERN PROVINCE : *H.A.S.*: M. W. Donnal, Toc H, 40, Strand St., Cape Town.

NATAL : *H.A.S.*: J. Watt, P.O. Box 210, Durban. *A.S.*: J. Mallet.

ORANGE FREE STATE, GRIQUALAND WEST AND BRITISH BECHUANALAND : *H.A.S.*: c/o E. S. Adams, P.O. Box 8, Kimberley, C.P.

RHODESIA : *A.S.*: N. F. High, P.O. Box 834, Bulawayo.

TRANSVAAL : *A.S.*: R. M. L. Westropp. *A.P.*: Rev. T. J. Savage, P.O. Box 3624, Johannesburg.

LONE UNITS OVERSEAS : *Addresses of Secretaries of Regional Executives, Branches and Groups in the following places are given in the Half-Yearly List issued with the April and November Journals*: ADEN, AFRICA (EAST, CENTRAL AND WEST), BRAZIL, CEYLON, CHILE, EGYPT, FAR EAST, MALAYA, MAURITIUS, MEDITERRANEAN, NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST, NORTHERN EUROPE, SUDAN AND WEST INDIES. *Secretary, Far East*: M. B. Elson, c/o Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Singapore, Straits Settlements.

THE SERVICES : *Addresses of Secretaries and Correspondents in THE NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE are given in the Half-Yearly List issued with the April and November Journals*.

Note on the Overseas Office

THE OVERSEAS OFFICE, 42, Trinity Square, London, E.C.3, will be glad to receive from (a) Secretaries of units or other members of Toc H in the United Kingdom the names and addresses of men (whether members of Toc H or not) about to go overseas for the first time, and (b) Of members of Toc H visiting the United Kingdom from Overseas, who are not known to be already in touch with the Overseas Office. When members of Toc H, overseas, intend to visit the United Kingdom they are requested to send to the Overseas Office, through the Secretaries of their units, their names and addresses in the United Kingdom, any offices held in Toc H, probable date of arrival, and duration of stay.

ONE LAP TO GO!

JULY 31 was, to most people, a very ordinary uneventful day, but some men of Toc H realised that we had just completed the third of our four quarterly laps of yet another financial year. For me it was a dreadful moment, as I was about to discover exactly how financially bad the third lap had been and it is well known how I like not those things!

Having prepared you for the bad news, let me soften the final blow by first telling you the only really good piece of news that I have to impart. It concerns the Festival; an affair which now and again became extremely complicated by the activities of those artistic ones. I have sorted out the masses of figures, but even now I cannot make a final statement as to the result so far as pennies are concerned, because I fear that my artistic friends may suddenly discover yet another bill tucked away in a pocket of the best suit! However, the said Festival has not only been self-supporting but has actually produced a surplus of some £525. It is only right and proper that Toc H should receive a handsome birthday gift upon its coming-of-age, and our grateful thanks go out to the thousands of Members who made this possible by adding that "extra little bit" to their contributions to the Festival Fund.

In the June JOURNAL I confessed my doubts as to the financial results of this colossal affair—I now bow my head in gratitude and tender my humble apologies for having doubted.

Now for the not so good part of the business; the accounts of H.Q. and the Areas show a deficit of £4,318 and it would have been very much worse had it not been for the amazing success of the Festival. This deficit is £1,378 more than for the corresponding period of last year but a "straight" comparison is

hardly fair, as in July, 1935, some members, in response to the Sutherland Graeme letter, met a "state of emergency" and two members alone made special gifts totalling £3,000.

The total Expenditure for the period has amounted to nearly £25,000 and is slightly less than for the nine months ended 31 July, 1935. This, of course, has been accomplished by good luck rather than by excellent judgment; the good luck occurring in being presented with the opportunity of charging a proportion of the Staff Salaries to the Festival Account.

Income has amounted to £20,392 and, of this total, £8,186 has been contributed by members as against £9,286 for the 1935 period. Donations are down by £3,300; Legacies have increased by £1,000; Membership Subscriptions and Capitation Fees have reached £200 more than was received by 31 July, 1935; Builders' Subscriptions are down by £800 and Contributions from Branches and Groups have increased from £2,294 to £3,133, an addition of £839.

The third quarter of our year is nearly always the worst from an Income point of view. Holidays have an awkward habit of interfering with money matters and humdrum routine work such as mine. The final quarter can usually be expected to produce an Income sufficiently large to cover Expenditure for the same period, mainly owing to the customary habit of last-minute rushes by conscience-stricken Treasurers! Therefore, if the last lap proceeds upon normal lines, we shall have to face a possible deficit of £4,000 which will, to a certain extent, be reduced by some sort of a surplus on the Marks and Hostels. On the other hand, if we produce a really super sprint upon reaching

the "home straight," and manage to get somewhere near the £10,000 mark for Unit Contributions, we could begin to revise our ideas upon what can be regarded as normal lines.

It is obvious that the idea of the membership taking over the greater part of the responsibility for the Family Purse is be-

ing taken up rather slowly and, although a considerable number of members are now facing that responsibility, many still have to do so.

Can we not speed up the process by the realisation that more lies behind this than the mere giving of our pennies to Toc H or any other good cause? W. J. M.

THREE MEN

'Dicky'

This appreciation comes from a Petty Officer of H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth.

IN the latter part of August, 1935, as everyone knows, the political situation made it necessary for a large Fleet to be based on Alexandria. This planted many thousands of us in a place we knew little about beyond its rotten reputation.

A tiny bunch of Toc H chaps in Alex. came to the rescue; they answered our queries by erecting a tent and staffing an Enquiry Bureau on the jetty we landed at. Round about 6.30 each night, and earlier on Saturdays and Sundays, the landing multitudes got used to seeing a tall, smiling fellow, wearing a Toc H tie and badge. He was not self-assertive, but had an air of being capable of answering any questions, however varied they happened to be. His personality seemed to stand out above all others. One could not help but feel that here was a real fellow, and contact proved it true. Night after night he came down, without having had his tea. Hour upon hour he stood to put us fellows right, often until midnight; and never did the cheery answer falter.

Little by little we began to hear something of his activities in Alexandria; how, on a not princely salary, he had managed to convert one of his two rooms into a club-room and shore billet for the apprentices from the merchantmen in port, of whom 300 keep in touch with him. Not only the Merchant Service, but the Navy had good reason to remember him long before we got there. It was Dick, who gave the idea for Malta to a few Naval members; and the Sliema House is the out-

come. It was only necessary to see the faces of some of those old hands on finding him, to realize here was the real contact between sea and shore.

More and more ships came into Alexandria, until the harbour was a floating town of 30,000 officers and men. The story of the starting of 'Claridges Fleet Club' is known to most. Toc H suggested it, and manned it voluntarily from the first day. Dick did three hours a night serving us men, and never in the limelight.

It was "Dicky this," and "Dicky that," until ordinary mortals would have wilted. Not so D.D.; he still came up with a smile, a cheerful and encouraging word, as if he had not had his long day's work at his profession from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. unceasingly.

His wife came, before he could arrive at Claridges; and oh! so willingly started the curio stall in a small way; but they soon found themselves emulating "Selfridges." In these days, Dicky seemed to have ten pairs of legs; here a tea-set wanted, there a suitcase; smilingly he would set about getting them.

The Lower Deck began to ask "Who is he"? When they found out, they began to think and to say that there must be something in this Toc H. In the glimmers and small beginnings he brought about, we found a foothold for our future climbing.

With the founding of a real home for Toc H in Alexandria—and he was the prime mover in this—we see him more as a Fisher

of men. Never was he so happy as when he could make contact, and take lonely fellows to "the flat" at 32, just opposite to Claridge's. He found the place, convinced the tiny group of Toc H ashore that they must face the risk; and so at last Toc H had its own premises.

We can only wish and pray that, when the Fleet leaves Alexandria, D.D. will know that hundreds upon hundreds, who know no other name for him than "Dicky," will carry with them deep respect for qualities proved to the hilt in unremitting energy and in inexhaustible patience.

F. S. M.

'Mister' Armstrong

Toc H in Malta is bewailing the impending departure from the Island of Mr. E. B. Armstrong, on being transferred to another post in the British Sailors' Society. *Mister* Armstrong, with no nickname. Not Ted Armstrong, nor "E.B.," not even "Armstrong." Just *Mister* Armstrong. Nobody ever calls him anything else, so dignified is his bearing, so modest his demeanour, so humble his nature, so deeply religious his character.

He has worked there for two years, and during all that period has laboured tremen-

dously hard for Toc H in his spare time. Everybody needed him. All six units of the Island called upon him constantly for help, and always got it. To soothe some ruffled person; to judge a controversial point; to advise a unit in a difficulty; to expound Toc H principles; to give a spiritual address on the relationship between Toc H and Christianity. Or on some merry Guest-night to recount with great gusto and the broadest of brogues the comicalities of his own Irish people. Farewell, Mr. Armstrong! All of us on the Island will miss you.

'Muggins'

How often has your family begun to disperse after the weekly meeting without any arrangements for the washing-up to be done? "Muggins" has done it. He has seen that it was there to be done, and quietly, uncomplainingly, got on with the job.

Many a time, too, he has helped to prepare the grub, because one of the fellows who was on the rota was missing. It is almost a regular thing for him to prepare the Lamp or Rushlight and put it away after the meeting because no one else thinks about it, or if they do think about it, they don't do it, but leave it to him.

"Muggins" is a noble fellow. He is never the one to spend one evening a week on a job of service and feel he has done enough. He is always doing something useful without making a fuss about it, both at home and outside, and yet he has often stepped into the breach, when the jobmaster's appeal has not met with response. Help is wanted on a Saturday afternoon; other members will be busy or have something else to do. "Mug-

gins" is busy too and has something else on; he was at the boys' club last night and will be again on Friday; to-night is the meeting, to-morrow he has promised to stay in while his parents go out and is going to do some odd jobs that need doing; and on Thursday there is old Bill, the cripple, looking forward to his weekly visit for a chat and a game of chess. On Saturday he was looking forward to the football match at . . . but never mind that. "I'll go," he says quietly but firmly and you can depend on him being there.

He does not get much credit for all he does, he is often imposed on, laughed at, seldom appreciated at his true worth. I take off my hat to him. If I could, I would write undying poetry in his honour. Noble fellow, 'Muggins'; how fortunate the family to which he belongs! What a difference his efficiency and quiet dependability make! How spineless a unit seems without him, how strong where five or six are like him! [R.K.C. in *Light*, West Midlands Area Magazine.]

THE FAMILY CHRONICLE

From Western Australia

THE rivers of Australia, I was told recently are very fine; very broad and long and winding, and when you fall in, you get very dusty! Which is on all fours with the answer given by a Toc H member when he was at school. The question was something to do with the river system of the continent and his answer was to the effect that all the rivers of Australia are in the wrong place! He was right, of course, but not educationally. The dusty rivers are all in the wrong place, but that is due to the rainfall, which, as *Punch* would remark, is a glimpse of the obvious.

In this state of West Australia the rainfall decreases rapidly from 40 inches in the extreme south-west to something under 10 inches 300 to 400 miles inland. This little excursion into the geography books is in explanation of the fact that as one travels say, up the Great Southern Line and north to Geraldton, a matter of nearly 700 miles, one talks learnedly at first of potatoes, passing on to peaches and apples; grumbles at the price of butter (1/5 to your 11d.—and it's the same butter!) and congratulates a man on being able to run two, perhaps three, sheep to the acre (this is sheer over-crowding—further, much further, north, one sheep has ten acres in which to amuse itself). Then the price of wheat looms large, and 'Ten bags (or it may be bushels—it depends on that ten inches of rain) to the acre this year!' is the staple conversation.

And that, apart from the gold-fields, is Western Australia, and Toc H serves in its curious way this diverse family of just under half-a-million people.

'The Moonlight Flit'

Western Australia is a family that appears to be always on the move. One trip you will meet and talk with a member in *Perth*, when next you visit *Geraldton* he is a member there, having been transferred at short notice for a period not so short. Every unit complains bitterly of that problem, the 'moonlight flit.'

The trouble is that often keen members are transferred to places where there is no unit, nor the likelihood of one, owing to the sparse population. On the other hand, that is one of the ways in which Toc H is spread in this wide country. Half the population inhabit the Metropolitan area of *Perth*, and the other half, roughly 220,000, inhabit, in a variety of dwellings, the rest of the state, eight times as big as England. Perhaps it is due to this relatively small number, but it is a fact that everyone seems to know everyone else out here, and that helps tremendously in the job of trying to cover the 45 Branches, Groups and gropes scattered along the railways of W.A.

In order to work the 'wide open spaces' the District Team system is being tried out, and so far it is working very well, in spite of the fact that some districts are nearly the size of English Areas! The latest to be formed is the great Southern District comprising *Wagin*, *Katanning*, *Gnowangerup* and *Lake Grace*; this District forms a triangle, the sides of which are about 75 miles long!

During the past six months I have seen practically every unit from the North to the South, being given hospitality in all sorts of delightful homes, from tin humpies and mud-brick houses to substantial concrete farm-houses set in the middle of holdings some 3,000 acres in extent. I have learned to differentiate between a 'waddi,' which is a stick, and a 'wagga,' which is a chaff-bag blanket, and a 'wongi,' which is a 'chin-wag.'

Timber and Wheat

Toc H is now firmly established in the South-west, among the big trees, and the acquisition of a car made it possible to pay a visit to the *Bridgetown* District, and to make an excursion to the big State saw-mills at *Pemberton*, and to go out into the bush to watch them felling giant karri gums. These trees have clean straight trunks rising sometimes over a hundred feet before they branch, and with a butt of more than 8 feet thick. We timed the two fallers of one of these trees

from the moment the first blow was struck to make a platform from which to fell it, and the time taken from that blow until the tree fell was just over three-quarters of an hour.

Middlesex, in the centre of the timber, is one of the youngest groups, and has achieved what many an older unit has failed to do; it has created an atmosphere in a group settlement area which is remarked upon by those who live in that part of the world. A unity and a family spirit so real as to suggest the *raison d'être* for Toc H in the countryside; not a restless search for jobs which are not always there, but the creation and fostering of an *esprit*. This unit is one where the membership is scattered over an area of twenty miles or so, and transport ranges from Shank's pony to horse-back or sulky. One probationer rode in a distance of nine miles on horse-back through the bush for months, and rarely missed a meeting. 'There ain't no buses runnin' from the Bank to Mandalay' out here, and how about push-biking eighteen miles and back for a District Committee, you who live on the bus and tram routes!

Shortly after harvest, some time in March, is the season for 'burning off,' and on various trips it has happened that our road lay through bush fires, the smoke from which makes the sun burn redly, rather like a misty day in Autumn. At night time the effect of the burning gums is magnificent, each tree outlined in flame, and twinkling fires amongst the trees as though some great army were encamped.

A long tour of nearly a month took me up to *Geraldton* and *Northampton*, the most northerly units (apart from the lonely outpost, *Mount Magnet*, 250 miles east of *Geraldton*) and down the line again visiting some units for the second time. *Geraldton* is our latest Branch, and as I am writing in the week of the English Festival, just about to have their new Lamp lit for the first time.

Merredin District have only recently been formed, but have already begun extension at *Nukarni*, in the wheat-belt. Visitors to these wheat-belt townships often ask where is the town, as all that can be seen in many cases is a tin shed by the side of the railway line, and an imposing looking name board tell-

ing all and sundry that this is such-and-such a station; there may be a petrol pump or a store, but of houses there are none. The population is scattered all over the countryside on farms and holdings, with several miles between neighbours. *Nukarni* is one such place, and Toc H is doing its part in welding together this wide-spread community.

Northam, whose demise was noted in the last despatch, has now revived, and a strong 'gropé' is under way with all the chances of a Group in the near future.

In the early days of the State, settlers landed at *Busselton*, some 30 miles S.E. of *Bunbury*, and in 1829 the first settlement was established, at a place called 'Cattle Chosen' so named it is said, from the fact that cattle landed off the ship got loose, and when found, were peacefully grazing a mile or two from the shore. Here the settlers stayed at the place chosen by the cattle! The original homestead is still standing, and descendants of the original family, the *Bussells*, live there and farm. The early buildings have of course been added to, and in the house there are many interesting relics and links with those early momentous days. *Busselton* is also trying out Toc H, and a few men are meeting regularly.

Festival

The great excitement of recent months has been the 11th Australian Festival, held this year in *Perth*; when several members from the Eastern States made the long trip over. Folk in England have no conception of distances out here, thinking that *Sydney* is just an afternoon's run from *Perth*. As a matter of cold fact it is as far from *Perth* to *Adelaide* as from *London* to *Malta*. *Perth* to *Sydney* is further than from *London* to *New York*. Under these circumstances it was not surprising that the Eastern States' visitors were few in numbers. Both *Alan Cowling*, the Australian Secretary, and *Bob Wood*, the hon. Commissioner for Australia were present. Opportunity was taken to introduce visitors to the undoubted beauties of Western Australia, as well as to get through a great deal of useful discussion. The final Guest-

night, held in His Majesty's Theatre was a fitting conclusion to a week of purpose. Alan Cowling was the guest speaker, and his talk was broadcast throughout this State, and also to the East.

On the Monday following we said farewell to about 26 people going home on the "*Baradine*," the majority of whom were going to the Coming-of-Age Festival, already a thing of the past as far as the celebrations are concerned, but a landmark, it is hoped, in the life of Toc H the world.

Two important advances have been achieved as a result of Alan's visit, the formation of a very fine Advisory Team of business men to forward Toc H, and the establishment of the Schools' Section on a firm basis. Already three schools out of six or seven have become associated with Toc H, and it is only a matter of time before some of the others come in.

During the few days after the Festival here, the first Australian Staff conference was held, up in the hills fifteen miles from Perth. Brian Billings from N.S.W.; Alan Cowling (Aust. Sec.); Godfrey Kircher, Area Padre for South Australia, and myself. It was regretted that Bill Baldwin from Victoria was unable to come over, otherwise we should have been complete. As it was, during the three days' conference a lot of useful ground was covered, and we came away with a deeper knowledge of Australia and her needs as far as Toc H is concerned than before we went. Godfrey Kircher, the only Australian in our midst was responsible for this enlightenment.

Progress

The technique of the Training week-end is being used to great advantage in the various districts in the Area, and a new spirit of adventure and desire for knowledge is growing among the membership. District Teams

are experimenting with office bearer's conferences, the reading of Toc H literature is being emphasised, and the outlook, contrary to the B.B.C.'s usual depression, is of hope and brightness.

May I thank the units in England collectively for their very generous response to my appeal for JOURNALS. Those that have come have been sent all over the Area, and I am hoping that if there is internal evidence in the JOURNALS of their origin, that the units who get them will write to the unit concerned.

There has been a reorganisation in the staff of the Area since the Festival. Jack Fulton, who followed Jack Watts as hon. Area Secretary has become hon. Area Pilot, and G. Allan Hills takes his place as hon. Area Secretary; and, as Godfrey Kircher is leaving Toc H at Christmas time, I am being transferred to South Australia to be Area Padre.

The problem that is engaging our attention in Toc H is a question raised by George Record, of Tasmania, at the conference in connection with the Australian Festival. He quoted from an article by J. R. Darling, the headmaster of Geelong Grammar School, who said: "If Toc H could discover for itself a clearer objective and convince itself of the way in which it was especially fitted to attain that objective, then it would receive so great an accession of new life in its body that the internal weaknesses which we know to be in it, would be healed, and strength would grow up in their place." That clearer objective we are trying to discover.

You will read this perhaps in autumn, with everything turning brown; we shall be beginning our spring with the first 'kangaroo paws' and all the other lovely spring flowers. Yet we, who are half a world away, and two seasons out of step, greet our brethren in the family: *Dominus vobiscum!* SANDY.

From Palestine and Egypt

LOCAL celebrations of the coming-of-Age all over the world must have been legion and clearly cannot all be reported in the JOURNAL. But a note on the Festival in an outpost like *Haifa* is worth giving. At 7 p.m.

on Saturday, July 4, the group was "at home" to guests in St. Luke's Church Rooms. About 70 were present and passed a very pleasant evening in song and dance, treasure hunt and refreshment. Among the



ABOVE: "Placing a Scarf" in a Karri tree, Pemberton.

BETWEEN: Typical wheat country, Merredin.
(Photos: Western Australian Government Tourist Bureau.)

CENTRE: The First Australian Staff Conference at Greenmount, Western Australia, May 18-20, 1936.
Left to right—Godfrey Kircher (South Australian Area Padre), Alan Cowling (Secretary to Australian Executive), Percy Sands (Western Australia Area Padre), Brian Billings (New South Wales Area Secretary).



HAIFA COMING-OF-AGE ON CARMEL (see page 281).



ALEC CHURCHER LIKES NEW ZEALAND NEARLY AS MUCH AS LONDON.
(Photo: George Weigel, Christchurch, N.Z.)

company were two members of Jerusalem Branch and a guest who had visited the Old House in 1916 and was surprised to find himself celebrating such a birthday twenty years later in Palestine!

Sunday, July 5, began with a Communion service at St. Luke's at 7.30 a.m. and, for naval members, on board H.M.S. *Despatch* at 7.15 a.m. At 2.30 members assembled and proceeded by bus to a delightful meeting place, a spot among the pines on Mount Carmel (a picture of the party there, taken by P.O. Jury, of H.M.S. *Delhi*, is printed opposite). Lieut. Brooke, R.N., of H.M.S. *Arethusa*, was in the chair and introduced the speakers. These were Petty Officer Morris, of H.M.S. *Arethusa*, who spoke on "The past 21 years," and read extracts from *The Years Between*; and Master Gunner Figgins, Royal Artillery, who spoke on "The

future of Toc H." Lack of time prevented discussion. Padre Irving took prayers before the party left for tea in Haifa, prepared for them by the ladies of the staff of the English High School.

At 6.30 that evening the service of Dedication, based on that used in St. Paul's Cathedral on June 22, was held in St. Luke's Church, which was filled almost to capacity.

* * * *

If Mount Carmel strikes home members as a romantic meeting place, here are two others, mentioned in a letter from Cairo to the Overseas Office: (1) "The flat roof of a Greek Restaurant on the road about half way between Cairo and the Pyramids, in full view of the latter. The light, the moon and a street lamp"; (2) "On a felucca on the Nile, by the light of the moon. 'Light' taken in the prow."

Glimpses from the Services

From all over the world scraps of news come home to show that Service members, Navy, Army and Air Force, are busy as they move from place to place on their lawful occasions. The opportunities for "jobs" might seem few at first sight but they continue to find them in strange variety. Here are one or two instances from the letters of Service members. "Duggie" Chandler, of H.M.S. *Cornwall*, wrote home a little while ago:—"It has been an experience for any Toc H man to serve on the China station. Joining the Fleet at Wei-hai-wei last July I found things could be made quite happy with the Fleet members. Between us we organised bathing picnics and stressed the point that it was not all fun we were out for, and so each picnic included 'Light' and a meeting properly organised and carried out. Can you imagine a huge sandy bay in the cool of the evening at 5.30 p.m. with Toc H China Fleet holding their meetings? It gave us joy and encouragement, but Italy said no, and we had to break up and come south as you know.

"I was stationed for quite a time at Singapore but was able to get in touch with the local group. Before leaving I visited the

Leper settlement and having had that experience can admire Tubby and the love he has for the leper. Arriving at Hong Kong, I found they had elected a Fleet Sec. on their own. I immediately got into touch with him and we agreed to work together. It was a tough job, but between us we have managed to put the Fleet members all in working order. Two outstanding jobs here are the street sleepers, an article on which appeared in the JOURNAL and the assistance we can give to Dr. Woo's Clinic for Opium smokers. It is Dr. Arthur Woo's one object to stamp out this drug-taking and he opens his clinic each afternoon. His patients are all volunteers and until recently treatment was free, but now a very small charge is levied. The patient on his first application is treated by sticking a plaster on his chest. The plaster is coated with a substance known to us as 'Spanish Fly,' and after it has been in place some thirty hours it is removed, leaving behind a large blister. The substance of the blister is extracted and injected into the patient's arm. This treatment is carried on until a cure is effected, generally by between six and twelve inoculations, according to the amount of opium taken. It was

a Toc H job to go up and assist in regulating the queues and so make the work of the nurses and doctors easier and speedier. I must say that the Service member has answered the call of service admirably well."

Blind and Lepers

Then comes a note on the admirable job which many naval members have been doing steadily for a long time—the making of games and writing of books in Braille type during their voyages, which they are able to deliver when they touch port. Able Seaman Brissenden writes from H.M.S. *Emerald* :—“I had a short trip to Colombo for docking last month, and was able to deliver some jigsaw puzzles and Braille to ‘Pop’ Pleasants for the deaf, dumb and blind schools at Mount Lavina. The *Norfolk* has now gone, and they will take Braille stories and a Braille map of Scotland—the latter being quite a wonderful piece of painstaking work; also some pipes for the Leper Colony.”

And here are some sentences from a letter of James Paine of the R.A.F. at Khormaksar, Aden :—“March 7—Recruiting meeting. Everyone got down to it and set the Group on a firm basis. Discussed jobs to be done, such as obtaining a Braille printer. Can you put us on to one at all? (*It has since been sent from home.*) Also collecting things, such as stamps and bottles—the former for orphans who sell them and the latter for use in medical dispensaries . . . May 2—Meeting at Khormaksar. We had Dr. Petrie of the Leper Hospital, Sheikh Othman, to talk, and we all got busy afterwards suggesting jobs. The outcome was an outing to the Hospital to see for ourselves. We found the lepers a cheerful crowd, considering their terrible infirmity, and willing to participate in anything likely to improve their leisure hours. They work a little and are paid at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ anna a day. Of course the problem is how to give them talents or counters which cannot be passed on to outsiders and yet can be disinfected. We have decided to make them some money, and for the purpose we propose to saw sheets of aluminium off our derelict aircraft! We

are also collecting sports gear, and making a queer sort of game called *Kharam*. At last we feel that Toc H Khormaksar has stepped out to do a real bit of service, and the scope is ideal for our limited and scattered membership . . .” A later letter shows how the job went through: “Our job with the ‘leopards’ is going hot and strong. The coinage is completed—1,000 of them, made of duralumin—and is now in service. Sports gear piles in and we can now supply gear for the whole of Southern Arabia, if need be! The latest acquisition is a huge heap of cast-off shorts and shirts, presented by Steamer Point Group. These come in handy to cover up the bad spots on the lepers’ legs and so keep the flies off.”

The problem of making meetings regular and real and of keeping in touch with other units and distant members obviously bulks large in Toc H life in the Services. But all sorts of efforts are made to overcome it. Both the correspondents we have just quoted—Brissenden, R.N., and Paine, R.A.F.—refer to a joint meeting at the padre’s bungalow at Steamer Point Group, Aden, with a Padre from H.M.S. *Enterprise* speaking. “A right royal gathering,” says Brissenden, with “a sing-song that must have been heard in England.” “Quite a number turned up,” says Paine, “which shows that Toc H has bloomed again on these barren rocks.” And the dose is to be repeated: “We shall have another meeting like that,” writes the Navy, “to keep the ‘Dicky Birds’ (R.A.F.) awake.”

Festival Pilgrims

When the chance comes to meet other members of the world-wide family the most is made of it. “We are trying,” writes Paine, “to fix up an outing for those visiting the Birthday Festival when they arrive in Aden. Steamer Point will be on the spot to inform us when the boat comes in.” In due course the *Barradine*, carrying the Australian pilgrims to the Festival, did put in, and the next report from the R.A.F. at Khormaksar was full of it. “The pilgrims invaded us one bright morning at the magic hour of

06.30 when Khormaksar was wreathed in a beautiful repose (it was our day off). However, the ever-watchful Secretary was at work in the radio cabin and managed to set the wheels in motion. They split up into three parties—one lot bathing in the Residents' pool, others going on board the Naval boats in the harbour and the residue piling into cars and invading Khormaksar. The Orderly Officer was aroused by a gibbering Orderly Sergeant, with: 'The Blue Tours people have invaded the Technical Com-

pound! '— and the Orderly Officer just murmured: 'It's them Toc H people,' and fell asleep again. We showed them over our Engine Repair Shops, Aircraft Repair Section and 'A' Flight, and manfully tried to explain the various gadgets but failed dismally. However, we fell back on the parachute-ripping and bomb-dropping show which always pleases. After this they all departed to Steamer Point for a drink before going on board once more. We want them to drop in on their way back."

MIXING

With the usual apologies to "*Top Hat*"—

Chatsworth, I'm in Chatsworth,
And I've done so much I've not had time
to speak,
Of the happiness that isn't far to seek,
When I'm camping in the shadow of the
peak.

—Not too bad an impression of the North of England Schools and Clubs Camp (affiliated to the somewhat better known one in the South, sponsored by H.R.H. the Duke of York), in which Toc H plays a good part, following the traditions of its founder, Michael Coleman.

The Camp, pitched in the lovely park of Chatsworth, thanks to the Duke of Devonshire, lasts a week, and three days prior to the opening, the Staff and/or spare parts from Public Schools, Sandhurst, Toc H, and all that, are very nicely busy, thank you, trying to evolve order out of chaos, with masses of equipment hired from the Royal Army Ordnance Depot at York. They discover that tents, C.S., V. cotton, 48, are bell tents; tents, pins, wood, small, 2912, are tent pegs; basins, soup, steel, tinned, 170, are feeding receptacles—not to mention the thrilling discovery of chairs, windsor, officers, for the use of, 4, and such interesting items as axes, pick, 4½ lbs. heads, also axes, pick, 4½ lbs. helves; in other words Army nomenclature having been translated into everyday English, permits of the Camp being ready to receive the campers who stream in on the first Saturday.

All sorts and conditions of boys, 170 of them, from Schools, Boys' Clubs, Works,— and it is only at this point of arrival, and later

on departure, that it is possible to grade them with any measure of accuracy. For the joyful success of camps of this kind lies in not being able to tell t'other from which, when camp effects the grand transformation scene, changing graded specimens of young manhood, marked by conventions of dress, into a common happy mass of campers. It's thrilling. For how often do we hear the moan that a common danger can alone bind men together! This Camp, and hundreds of others, big and small, give the lie to this heresy. A common aim towards happiness can and does achieve much—if happiness is salted by a measure of communal service and the will to make the other chap enjoy himself as well.

The Camp is highly organised—which does not mean it is over-organised; and healthy tiredness aimed at as conducive to a measure of discipline is nowise irksome. Games, planned on an inter-sectional, competitive basis, were varied and strenuous; indeed one of our more sensational daily papers headed its description of the Camp with the exciting caption "The Roughest Game on Earth." It was discovered that this magnificent piece of journalese referred to a mixture of Rugger and Soccer, generally known as 'Foot and Mouth Disease,' which did, it is true, result in one of the Section Leaders receiving a black eye.

The Camp is four years old now, but has its traditions—voluntary prayers, so well attended, as is Evensong at Baslow Parish Church, when its hospitable Rector invites the Camp Padre to preach the Sermon, the

Camp Chief and the Bursar to read the Lessons, and the boys to come in camp kit.

Kit inspection is another tradition, so delightfully different to the military variety, for humour and ingenuity are encouraged, and pages could be written of tents transformed into Barbers' Shops, Hospitals, or 'Ye Jugge and Bottle'—or on a fine day really astonishing scenes arranged—The Covered Wagon, the "Queen Mary," a Parish Jumble Sale, the Olympic Games, were some of them. (H.M. Forces must have had scouts out, for these are the lines on which military manoeuvres seem to have been moving of late).

Every evening at a quarter-to-eight a grand variety show was staged—including a pantomime and a revue, complete with beauty chorus. Scrambled rehearsals, or none at all,

actually seemed to improve the proceedings, although the amateur wail of "It'll be alright on the night" became the theme song of harassed producers. Pictures of the old, very old, silent type, followed variety—but permitted of congregational word pictures which no talkies could beat.

The weather was foul—but nothing damped the spirits of the campers, and a week's life at its best ended with a Camp Fire and some wise words from the Camp Chief, Philip King, of Uppingham. The last day dawned fine and sunny—it *would!* And what good does the Camp do? Well, we simply cannot tell—but this is certain, many come back having found friendships of real worth. We all understand each other rather better, even after those few days. Isn't that something?

ALEC GAMMON.

In Memoriam : Montague

This touching tribute to a friend is written by Rev. Hugh Douglas, Assistant Minister to Padre George Macleod at Govan Old Parish Church, Glasgow. It first found readers in the Glasgow University magazine two years ago.

*The nicest flea I ever knew
Was one whose name was Montague.
Aristocratic, gently bred,
He rarely bit you till you bled.
But as he took his morning meal
He always used to make you feel
It was a pleasure to sustain
A flea with such a noble brain.
He often helped about the house,
And showed himself no common louse
By quite refusing to have tea
On those of humble pedigree.
His intellect was truly great,
And yet he was a celibate :
For through his long and busy life
He never took himself a wife.
'Twas tragic that he never had
A little flea to call him Dad.
And yet 'twas better so perhaps
That he from virtue should not lapse,
For who of fleas was equal to
My own beloved Montague?
But to our tale. A strict T.T.,
He rarely went upon the spree.
His way of life was not a beery 'un,
He was, you see, a Presbyterian.*

*But Fate, with black devised plan
Threw in his path an Anglican—
A Bishop with a noble paunch,
Who had been present at a launch
Where lunch consisted in the main
Of champagne, followed by champagne.
Now Montague was truly glad
To show what breadth of mind he had,
And thought that he could with immunity
Further the progress of church unity.
So, noticing a slight hiatus
Betwixt the Bishop's breeks and gaiters,
With aim unerring there he jumped.
And then the Bishop's blood he pumped.
Ah, cruel Fate! The poison spread
Throughout his body to his head.
The Bishop's blood was somewhat beery
And made poor Monty far too cheery.
Desire inflamed, he drank and drank,
Then, hold relaxed, he backwards sank.
But ere he to the ground could drop,
A genteel but emphatic plop
Proclaimed to loving ears the worst—
The news that Montague had burst.*

HUGH DOUGLAS.

THE OPEN HUSTINGS

Juvenile Transference

MY DEAR EDITOR,

I have been much interested in the controversy between Jim Burford and Lord Middleton in the pages of the JOURNAL on the subject of Juvenile Transference.*

J.B. raises various issues on the principles involved in the whole system, both in theory and practice, and suggests alternative remedies. L.M. tends to evade these issues or dismiss them without serious discussion. He does not answer J.B.'s arguments, but accuses him of being sentimental. He makes rather heavy weather over the fact that he himself served as an officer in the Army in India (presumably of his own choice) and endured many years' absence from home. But it is foolish to suggest that such an experience is at all comparable to the system of Juvenile Transference under discussion.

J.B. maintains that the practice of transferring boys and girls from their own neighbourhood is wrong in principle, and that, therefore, the system which is based upon it is wrong. L.M. contends that such a suggestion is unreasonable because, through the system, 22,000 unemployed persons have been put to work. We seem to have heard this type of argument before: "The trains now run to time in Italy," and therefore the superficial observer regards Fascism as an admirable system—for Italy! But what is happening to individual personalities meantime?

At one point in his article it seems as if L.M. was really going to deal with J.B.'s proposals, when he says, "The whole theme of J.B.'s article can be summed up in the words 'Take the work to the people.' I agree that this is exactly what any right-minded person would ardently desire to do." So far, so good. But if L.M. (right-minded, as I imagine him to be) "ardently desires" what J.B. desires, why does he then proceed to assert that this policy is impracticable because industrialists could never be induced

to co-operate? It is less harmful to the community for J.B. to wax sentimental over Welsh children singing hymns than it is for L.M. impotently to sentimentalise over the obduracy of the hard-headed industrialist. He must know quite well that during the Great War the Government brought pressure to bear upon a great many industrialists and a great many 'impracticable' achievements were performed. To-day a very large proportion of our population is living in an equally severe state of emergency through malnutrition and economic insecurity, and it is for whatever Government is in power to take drastic measures to meet this emergency—but not solely at the expense of the victims. The "ardent desires" of the large body of "right-minded" people in the country would soon find ways and means of dealing with the situation.

The real fact is that there is a wide difference between the approach to this problem of J.B. and that of L.M. J.B. knows from personal experience what unemployment and the absence of any margin of financial security means to people with whom he has been in close contact. I gather from L.M.'s attitude that he has not had the same opportunity of first-hand knowledge of the problem.

But would L.M. tell us whether he agrees with J.B.'s dictum, "The real end of life is not the profits of industry but the lives of human beings"? Does he feel he has really faced the issue that J.B. raises? Does Empire migration really deal with the economic problems with which our country is confronted to-day? Meantime, let J.B. and L.M. both take some measure of comfort from the recently-published scheme for setting aside 700 acres of land in the Team Valley in Durham for the purpose of taking the work to the people. There is a beginning, at any rate.

Yours sincerely,
London. LEONARD F. BROWNE.

* Jim Burford's article on this subject, *Following the dear old Dad*, appeared in the April issue; Lord Middleton's *Transference Again*, in June.

The Coming-of-Age Festival

A number of letters of appreciation of the Festival have been received, of which the following, one from a party and the other from an individual member, are representative.

DEAR EDITOR,

The members of the Southern African Overseas Pilgrimage wish to express their keen appreciation of all that has been done for them by Headquarters and the Festival Office during their stay in England. They also wish to convey their warmest thanks to all who extended unbounded hospitality during the various tours, and especially to our hosts and hostesses.

Our experience of all the Festival events, and the inspiration they have given us, will long remain. We shall make every effort to convey to our friends in Southern Africa the spirit of good fellowship which we have met at every turn. Our stay in England has been made most pleasant for us, and we realise that it is due in large measure to the thoughtfulness and organisation of Headquarters and innumerable others.

Thank you all in Toc H in England. We have enjoyed ourselves immensely, and are returning with our hearts full of gratitude.

Yours in the Family,
E. A. THOMPSON (*Leader*).

* * * *

DEAR EDITOR,

May I, as a very humble member of Toc H, offer, through your columns, congratulations, to the Birthday Festival Committee on their really magnificent work.

I was privileged to be given a small part to play at both the Family Gathering and the Thanksgiving Service at the Albert Hall, and at these gatherings, as well as at all the others, the staff work was beyond praise. One heard on all sides nothing but praise, not only from the members of our Family but from overseas visitors and other guests; and personally I have heard no adverse comments.

I am, Sir,
Yours obediently,
GERALD E. STONEHAM.

London.

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Light

DEAR EDITOR,

Our branch at Merthyr Tydfil spent a very profitable meeting discussing J.R.P.'s article, "The Ceremony of Light." We came to no findings about it, but the following suggestions and comments came up.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is in the ceremony only by implication. It was felt that the leader might begin, not with the present words about the Elder Brethren, but on lines something like this, "Wherfore seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him."

"That was the true light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

Then we could pass on to the service as it now stands, realising that the Elder Brethren include all the heroes of faith in Hebrews chapter eleven, and that the service involves our common faith in the communion of saints, as well as the memory of our comrades of 1914-18.

Some felt that the double crucifix on the Lamp should give place to one, and that there should be no question, while refusing to forget sacrifice, of equating death in battle with the Cross of One who died rather than become the warrior Messiah of some of His people's hopes. May I add that as a padre in a distressed area I endorse all Jim Burford says in his magnificent article, "Following the Dear Old Dad." It would be a service if Toc H published it as a pamphlet.

Some misunderstanding of the above might be forestalled when I say that I was in the Royal Fusiliers as a "Tommy," and in the Royal Welch Fusiliers as a combatant officer. There is, as J.R.P. points out, a danger of our sentimentalising the ceremony of light, and even the memory of our fallen. For me it means "No more war."

M. WATCYN-WILLIAMS.

MULTUM IN PARVO

¶ The Presidency of Toc H in Australia has been accepted by the Governor-General, LORD GOWRIE, V.C., in succession to SIR LESLIE WILSON, Governor of Queensland.

¶ BOBS FORD, while continuing to serve as Oxford and Thames Valley Area Padre, has succeeded OWEN WATKINS as Administrative Padre since the latter's departure for South Africa on August 25. HERBERT LEGGATE becomes Assistant Administrative Padre, in succession to F. W. BAGGALLAY, on the latter's appointment to the Rectory of St. Swithun, London Stone.

¶ D. L. RALPH, late of Shanghai, has been appointed Hon. Area Secretary, Oxford and Thames Valley Area.

¶ "BARKIS" and HOWARD DUNNETT sail for the Argentine by the *Arlanza* from Southampton on September 19. They will spend a week in Brazil *en route*. MRS. BARON hopes to accompany them for the voyage.

¶ GILBERT and Mrs. WILLIAMS have given up their house at 50, Westmoreland Road, Bromley, where so many Toc H members have for many years enjoyed hospitality and friendship. Mrs. Williams had to undergo an urgent operation for appendicitis in June. Toc H will be glad to know that she is making an excellent recovery, but Gilbert expects to have to be away with her a good deal in the autumn and his Toc H activities are likely to be considerably curtailed in consequence.

¶ 'The Archer' has been busy among the Staff again! JIM DAVIES (North Western Area Padre), GEOFFREY MARTIN (Northern and Western London Areas Secretary) NORMAN MCPHERSON (Eastern London Area Secretary) and JACK HARRISON (H.Q.) have all been married. Congratulations and good wishes to them all!

¶ H. E. HOWES (Mark XXII) has been appointed to the staff on probation from September 1, and from the same date JOHN BURNETT (Sevenoaks) takes up a three months' appointment on the staff.

¶ LEN WILLIAMS, who has been training in England, returns to Tasmania by the *Orion*

this month, and in November becomes Secretary of the South Australia Area.

¶ Other staff changes, forecast in the JOURNAL for June, take place during August and September. The LIST OF AREA PADRES AND SECRETARIES printed in the centre pages of this issue shows the names as they will be after the movements are completed.

¶ The Central Executive has appointed the following to be Hon. Association Padres: The Rev. G. W. S. HARMER (formerly of Manchester Area, now at Hatfield); the Rt. Rev. H. ST. B. HOLLAND (formerly of Hampton Lucy, Warwick, now Bishop of Wellington, New Zealand); the Very Rev. W. H. JOHNSON (Dean of Newcastle, N.S.W., Australia, and Bishop-elect of Ballarat); Canon HUGH PRICE (Barford, Warwick).

¶ The former B.E.L.R.A. Toc H Committee has been amalgamated with the B.E.L.R.A. Executive Committee, on which Toc H will now be represented by COLONEL MYNORS FARMAR, PADRE TUNSTALL and MICHAEL HINDE.

¶ The work of Embarkation Correspondent at Southampton so ably done by Sergeant R. J. WHEELER, M.M., who has now retired from the Army, is being carried on by a team under the leadership of HUGH BINGHAM, assisted by S.Q.M.S. PUTNAM (9th Queen's Royal Lancers, Tidworth). Secretaries of units at home and abroad will add much to the happiness of their members due to sail from or arrive at Southampton in Army or R.A.F. troraphips by giving timely notice to: The Toc H District Secretary, Talbot House, Brunswick Square, Southampton.

¶ Leading Seaman M. G. (MONTY) FOSTER, H.M.S. *Alecto*, c/o G.P.O., London, is appointed Assistant Secretary for the Home Fleet and will act for all ships in home waters during the absence of the Home Fleet Secretary.

¶ Congratulations to FAVERSHAM (Kent Area) and KINGSBRIDGE (South Western Area) Groups, which have been promoted to Branch status.

THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT

THE World Chain of Light will be held for the eighth year in succession (since it was first inaugurated in Australia in 1929) on December 11 and 12, 1936. The first day is the 21st anniversary of the actual birthday of Talbot House, Poperinghe, and December 12 is Tubby's own birthday. This year the links of the Chain will be forged with added strength in view of friendships made and renewed during the Coming-of-Age Festival.

The Chain of Light reminds members all over the world, during one twenty-four hours of the year, of their unity in the Family of Toc H, by a piece of symbolism simple and striking. Once again the first Lamp will be lit in the Old House at 9 p.m. on December 11. The Links of the Chain are then forged by the lighting of the Lamps and Rushlights in succession from East to West the world round, until 24 hours later the light is received back, as it were, in the Upper Room of Poperinghe after its world-wide journey.

As the earth rotates on its axis every 24 hours the effect is a chain of lights resulting from all Lamps and Rushlights westward of the Old House to the Pacific Ocean being lit at 9 p.m. on December 11, and all others westward of the Pacific at 9 p.m. on December 12 (in each case 9 p.m. being reckoned according to local time).

The Lighting of the Lamps and Rushlights

All Branches and Groups (and Lone members) are therefore invited to "stand-to," and hold the Ceremony of Light at 9 p.m. by their own time.

On Friday, December 11 in Belgium, France, Holland, Great Britain, Ireland, South America, Canada.

On Saturday, December 12 in New Zealand, Australia, Japan, China, Malaya, Burma, India, Ceylon, Near and Middle East, Africa and the Mediterranean.

Some may care to use some such words as these at 9 p.m., as they help to forge another link in the Chain :

"This (or Last) night in the Upper Room of Talbot House, Poperinghe, there was lighted a

Lamp. Thus began the World Chain of Light, which in twenty-four hours will have encircled the globe. To far friends and near this Flanders household flame doth shine, recalling Christ and true men of His Name. The Sacrifice of the Elder Brethren will be remembered with proud thanksgiving, as the Light is passed on, winged and unwearied, an incentive to the world-wide family of Toc H to follow them in the path of Service and Brotherly Love."

Or, just before the Ceremony of Light, these words written by Tubby :—

"Now let the loving-cup of fire
Be lifted over land and sea.
Now may the faith of friends inspire
Our scattered souls with unity.
For other men's to-morrows, these
Broke from their dreams, made brief their
day.
Heirs of their spirit will not please
Themselves, but school themselves and say
LIGHT."

The Party going to the Old House

(1) MEMBERS WHO WISH TO BE CONSIDERED for inclusion in the small party which will go over are asked to write to Paul Slessor, at 47, Francis Street, S.W.1, by November 15.

(2) ROUTE AND TIMETABLE.

(a) *Outwards*.—Thursday, December 10 : depart Victoria 11 p.m. via Dover Train-Ferry—Dunkirk; thence by 'bus to Poperinghe arriving there at 7.30 a.m. on Friday, 11.

(b) *Homewards*.—Depart from Poperinghe by 'bus, Sunday, December 13, at 10 p.m. via Dunkirk-Dover Train-Ferry, arr. Victoria Monday, 14, at 7.40 a.m.

(c) Those who must be in London by Sunday afternoon could leave Poperinghe on Sunday, 13, at 8.1 a.m., and return via Hazebrouck, Calais, Dover, arriving in London at 3.30 p.m.

(3) Cost.—Inclusive of Rail and Steamer fares, third-class berths, 'bus to Poperinghe and back, tour of the Salient, board and lodging, £3 3s. od. Or third-class Rail and first-class Steamer, £4. These terms are liable to some alteration, as the Train-Ferry fares have not yet been fixed. Those returning via Calais [see (c) above] should apply to H.Q. for terms.

(4) PASSPORTS not essential, but desirable.

P. A. S.